Arizona News Release

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Press Release Announcement – December 6, 2006 - For Immediate Release

NASS WILL CONDUCT THE 2007 CATTLE, SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY SURVEYS

Phoenix, Arizona, December 6, 2006 – The United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the 2007 January Cattle and Sheep\Goat Surveys this winter to gather reliable information about inventories in all states. Cattle, sheep and goat producers will be asked to report during the Dec. 29 – Jan. 12 data collection period.

"Because of the unique issues and challenges facing today's ranchers, producers' participation in this survey is vital," said Steve Manheimer, Director of the NASS Arizona Field Office. "Only by contacting operations directly can NASS compile and publish the most reliable statistics possible."

Having quality information enables USDA and the cattle and sheep\goat industries to be more responsive to the American and international public, increase consumer understanding and awareness, and establish an appreciation for the safety and health benefits of U.S. beef and lamb products.

NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all survey responses. Data collected from individual operations are combined with other responses to provide the needed data. We will not disclose any data about an individual operation.

NASS will publish the 2007 Cattle Report and 2007 Sheep and Goat Report with State and national estimates on January 26, 2007. For a copy of these reports or to obtain other agricultural statistics visit our Web site at www.nass.usda.gov/az or call (800) 645-7286.